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WOMEN'S IPL GETS RICH, ₹951 CRORE FOR FIVE YEARS

In a landmark deal for women's cricket, Viacom18 bags WIPL global rights during a closed-bid auction on Monday

THE BIG LEAGUE GENERATES MORE INTEREST

The Indian cricket board feels WIPL is headed towards the right direction. With 22 matches per year for the first three seasons and a possibility of increasing it to 33/34 games for 2026-27 seasons, Viacom18 will be paying around ₹7.09 crore per match till 2027. Unlike the men's IPL, the bid was for all three categories — linear (TV), digital and combined (TV and digital) | P15

FIRST EDITION, MORE ENTHUSIASM

To put into context, Disney Star paid **₹2.5 crore** per match in the Women's T20 Challenge

There will be five teams this time. All matches in Mumbai

When men's IPL began in 2008, the first 10-yr deal was **₹12.73 crore** per match (₹8,200 crore for 644 games)

₹23,758 cr

VIACOM18'S MEN'S IPL DIGITAL (ONLY) RIGHTS FOR FIVE YEARS

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Must win all state polls in '23: Nadda

BJP president sets big target for the party

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

SOUNDING the poll bugle for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, BJP president J P Nadda said on Monday that the party wants to win all the nine state elections slated to be held in 2023 before the bigger battle next year.

Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana are slated to go to polls this year.

"Our *josh* (enthusiasm) is high under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We have to fight and win the Assembly elections in all the states in 2023," Nadda said on the first day of the party's two-day national executive meeting here, urging party members to work hard for the crucial polls.

Modi, Union ministers including Amit Shah, chief ministers of BJP-ruled states and other senior party leaders attended the key meeting. Modi will address the gathering on Tuesday outlining the party's strategy for the future.

Briefing reporters on Nadda's closed-door address, BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said the party president highlighted India's performance and growing global acceptance under Modi's leadership. "India has become the world's fifth-largest economy and the second-largest manufacturer of smart phones. About 95% of mobile phones used in the country are now made in India," Prasad quoted Nadda as saying.

Call on Nadda's extension today

The national executive meeting is likely to take a call on Tuesday on extending Nadda's tenure till the LS elections are over

Lauding India's progress under Modi, Nadda highlighted that the country is the third-largest manufacturer in the auto sector while the highway being built every day has risen to 37 km from 12 km during the UPA regime.

Ahead of the national council meet, the BJP held a grand road show led by PM Modi in Delhi with enthused party workers and supporters hitting the roads to greet Modi.

AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra participates in the Congress' 'Naa Nayaki' convention at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru on Monday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Cong: ₹2K/m for woman family heads if elected

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Congress party on Monday promised Rs 2,000 per month as financial aid to woman heads and unemployed housewives of every household if the party is voted to power in Karnataka in the Assembly polls due in April/May this year. Last week the party had announced 200 units of free electricity to all households in the state if voted to power in the state.

AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra unveiled the Gruhalakshmi Yojana scheme at the party's 'Naa Nayaki' (I am a leader) rally in Bengaluru on Monday. The party said the scheme will benefit over 1.5 crore women and the amount will directly be credited to the accounts of the woman heads of families.

Priyanka, who came down heavily on the Central government over price rise and unemployment, said the Gruhalakshmi scheme will help women run their households by overcoming the burden of price rise and increase in LPG prices.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Contractor: BJP MLA took ₹90L to clear bills

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka State Contractors' Association (KSCA) on Monday accused a BJP MLA of taking kickbacks to clear bills. The association released an audio clip which purportedly carries a conversation between its working president and the ruling party legislator. KSCA president R Manjunath alleged that in the last three years, he had paid Rs 90 lakh to Chitradurga BJP MLA GH Thippareddy to get bills of building construction works cleared. "I have proof and I will file a case with the Lokayukta," Manjunath said. The audio clip was released during a press meet attended by the association state president D Kempanna.

The BJP MLA rubbished the allegations and warned of initiating action against the contractor. The fresh allegation from the association, which had earlier written to the Prime Minister demanding a probe into alleged kickbacks to the tune of 40 per cent, is likely to embarrass the government in the run-up to the polls.

Manjunath claimed that he has several audio clips, WhatsApp messages and a letter he had written to the MLA. P4

EXPRESS INTAKE

Bengaluru's first evening post office opens doors | P2

'Santro' Ravi case to be probed by CID, says Araga | P4

Ahead of polls, Siddu becomes BJP's target No. 1 | P4

Gadkari threat call: No phone found in Hindalga prison | P5

Govt misread NJAC verdict: Advocate Vikas Singh | P9

This vax can prevent lumpy skin disease

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

THE dreaded lumpy skin disease (LSD), which has killed more than two lakh cattle in India since 2020, can now be completely prevented by a new homologous vaccine developed indigenously by the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh and National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE), Hisar, Haryana.

Dr BR Gulati, Director, National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (NIVEDI), told *The New Indian Express*, that the homologous vaccine, which uses the same virus which causes the LSD "will provide 100 per cent protection against the virus. Two veterinary vaccine makers — Biovet Pvt Ltd, Malur, Karnataka and Hester Biosciences Ltd, Ahmedabad, Gujarat — have signed a commercial agreement for manufacture and supply of the vaccine. Biovet has submitted the test batches of the vaccine to IVRI for testing. The vaccine will be out in the market once approved."

The LSD virus is a pox virus that belongs to the same genus as sheep pox and goat pox viruses.

Presently, the goat pox vaccine is being given to cattle as prevention against LSD. "Goat pox is a heterologous vaccine. It provides 70 to 80 per cent protection against the disease," said Gulati. P5

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